

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06100 042329Z

62

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 123609

O 042304Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2927

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6100

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US IS EG

SUBJ: ISRAELI ACTIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) CAIRO 11954; (B) TEL AVIV 6095

1. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO GIVING ARMOCO SUBSTANCE OF ISRAELI POSITION AS STATED BY ALLON ON SEPT 3 (REF B).

2. WHILE I DEEM IT RATHER PRESUMPTORY FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS TO SUGGEST HOW I SHOULD CONDUCT MY BUSINESS IN ISRAEL, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEE RABIN IF I THOUGHT APPROACH WOULD BE USEFUL AND, MORE IMPORTANT, IF I THOUGH SUCH MOVE AT THIS TIME WERE IMPERATIVE. IN MY VIEW, NEITHER CONDITION IS APPLICABLE. IN ANY CASE, I AM CERTAIN THAT HIS STATMENT OF ISRAELI POSITION WOULD BE SAME AS THAT GIVEN BY ALLON. I THEREFORE SEE LITTLE PURPOSE IN MEETING WITH RABIN UNLESS WE HAVE NEW INFORMATION OR PROPOSALS TO MAKE.

3. DEPTTEL 219417 STATES THAT SITE 304.1 IS CONCESSION GRANTED TO AMOCO BEFORE 1967 WAR. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION OF OUR WON TO CONFIRM THIS. BUT ISRAELIS BELIEVE IT WAS GIVEN TO AMOCO AFTER 1967 AND THUS, IN THEIR EYES, CONCESSION HAS NO VALIDITY.

4. I MUST CONFESS THAT I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR EILTS' COMMENT THAT "ISRAELIS CANNOT CONTINUE TO TEMPORIZE" AND MORE TO THE POINT, ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY AND ACTION.
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06100 042329Z

ISRAELIS HAVE MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE

TO RESIST ALL DRILLING EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE SO LONG AS THERE IS NO AGREEMENT ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE AREA. THIS IS A FACTUAL SITUATION WE MUST FACE.

5. ONE FINAL OBSERVATION. I THINK WE SHOULD AVOID MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS, TAKING POSITIONS, PROPOSING ACTIONS ON THE BASIS OF PROVEN INACCURATE, OR WORSE, DELIBERATELY DISTORTED REPORTS. WE SHOULD, IN A WORD, COOL IT. OTHERWISE, WE WILL BY OUR POSTURE PRODUCE THE INFLAMMATORY SITUATION WE ALL WISH TO AVOID.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV06100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760336-1275
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760988/aaaacxza.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 11954, 76 TEL AVIV 6095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI ACTIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: PFOR, US, EG, IS, AMOCO
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006